



Illustration by John H. Rumely;
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BALSAMORHIZA MACROPHYLLA
LARGE-LEAFED BALSAMROOT

Large-leafed Balsamroot is a perennial with leafless flowering stems 30-100 cm tall, arising from a well-developed taproot and a branched, underground rootcrown. The basal leaves are 30-60 cm long and pinnately divided into entire-margined or coarsely toothed segments 5-12 cm long. Foliage has short, stiff hairs and/or long, sparse hairs. The large flower heads resemble those of a sunflower and are usually solitary. The lance-shaped involucral bracts are hairy and 25-50 mm long. The yellow ray flowers are 3-6 cm long, and the yellow disk flowers are ca. 11 mm long. The glabrous achenes are lance-shaped and ca. 1 cm long. Flowering in late June-early July.

It differs from *B. INCANA*, the only other balsamroot in Montana with dissected leaves, in that it has foliage that is not conspicuously hairy, rather than having silky, densely tangled hairs.